

Via Electronic & U.S. Mail

June 24, 2008

Mr. Philip Isenberg, Chairman
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Task Force Members:

The Blue Ribbon Task Force has achieved a remarkable step forward in its Delta Vision statement, with significant progress in confronting the serious problems afflicting the Delta. As you know, a greater challenge awaits with the “devils in the details” of major proposals, and in not creating new problems in the search for solutions.

In the Delta Vision document, one of the recommendations states that “A revitalized Delta ecosystem will require reduced diversions – or changes in the patterns and timing of those diversions upstream, within the Delta, and exported from the Delta – at critical times.” In the context of the court-ordered injunctions on Delta exports, it appears that this carefully worded principle has given impetus to oversimplified notions of cutting back on all diversions, regardless of how their impacts on the Delta may vary.

We are especially concerned about a misleading chart in Figure 7b of the Delta Vision document (Attachment 1), which depicts total Delta outflow as measured against project exports, in-Delta diversions, and another category that encompasses all other diversions. The latter category refers to “applied water and diversions for Friant-Kern canal, EBMUD’s Mokelumne Aqueduct, and SFPUC’s Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct” and suggests that these diversions constitute about 25% of all Delta watershed diversions. The labeling of this portion of the chart inappropriately implies that EBMUD and SFPUC are withdrawing a huge amount of water from the Delta watershed, exceeding the total project exports. Figure 7b was referenced in discussions before the Blue Ribbon Task Force at its May 28th meeting, but without the clarification we are making here.

Attachment 2 is a different chart based on exactly the same data, which shows the true proportion of EBMUD’s and SFPUC’s diversions in relation to the total Delta outflow, exports, etc. In this bar chart, barely visible is the portion taken by our two agencies, at less than 1.5% of the total

diversions. We suggest that it would be far more constructive to use this chart, or a similarly accurate one, in describing the relative diversions of the various water users.

We believe that durable solutions for the Delta are within reach, and that all parties will have to contribute to a sustainable Delta. We appreciate and support all efforts to move beyond the easy answers, and pledge our continued participation to that end.

Sincerely,



Edward Harrington
General Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



Dennis M. Diemer
General Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District

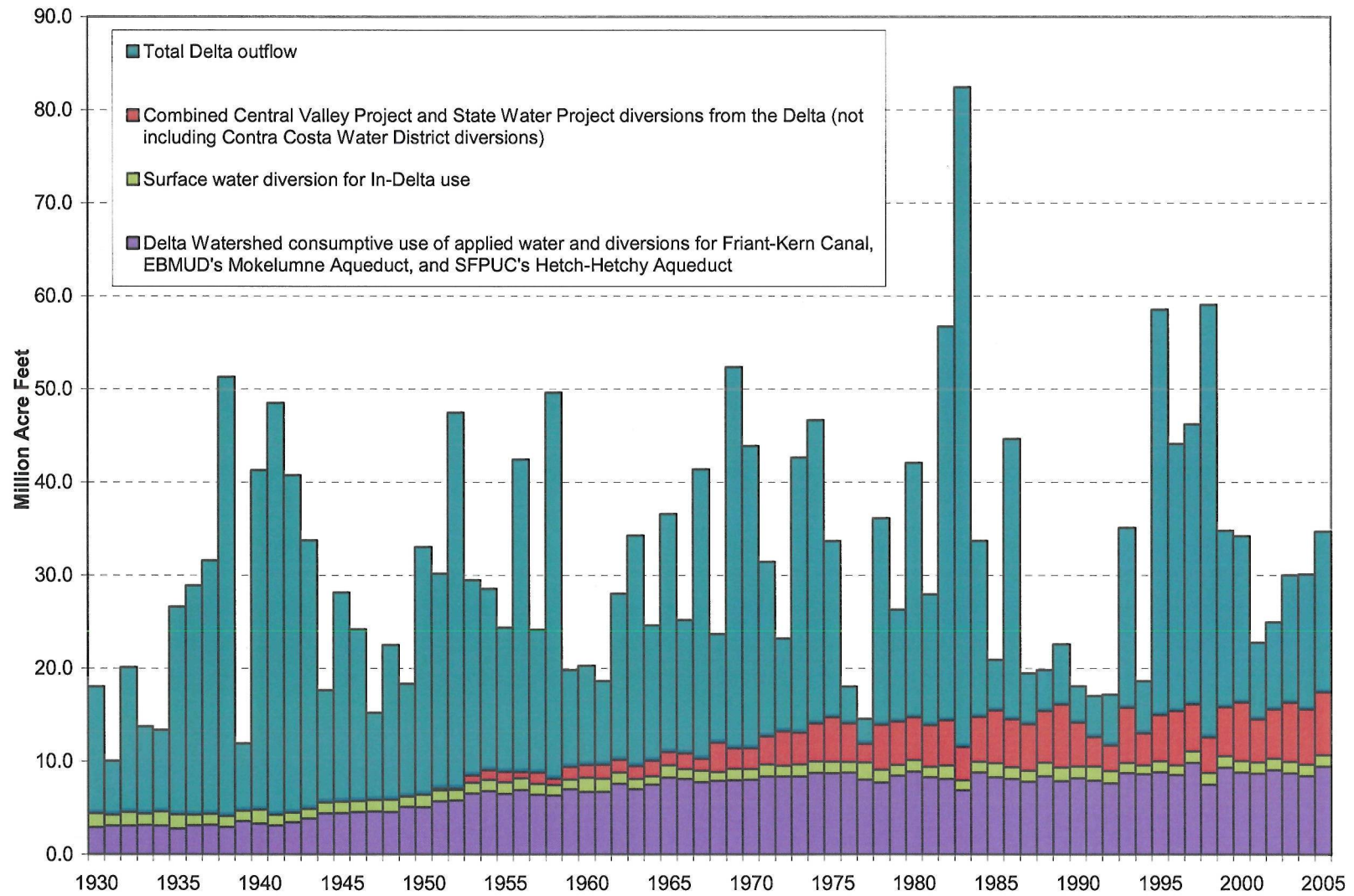
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Attachment

cc: Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Karen Scarborough, Undersecretary, California Resources Agency
Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources
Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority

Attachment 1

Figure 7 - Historic Diversion from the Delta



Attachment 2

Historic Diversion from the Delta and Watershed Consumptive Uses

